

MT. VERNON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL
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Friday, July 27, 2012

CC Docket No. 02-6
Request for Review
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch:

For many years, Mt. Vernon Township High School has purchased all of its' telecommunication and some broadband services from AT&T. Over the course of last December (2010), January, and February (2011), its' new Superintendent opted to explore other vendors offering the same services to see if there were cheaper options available. During this period, another vendor stepped up and offered the same services much cheaper. A comparison was acquired that showed significant savings.

After examining quotes submitted, a decision was made to move from AT&T to "Call One." The local salesman, Dennis Deering, working with/through Phonemasters, met with me and provided the necessary information, contracts, etc. The contracts were evaluated, negotiated, and signed (see attachments #125/#130). The salesman took the contracts and I was told that CallOne would begin the process needed to see that the applicable services would be assumed by CallOne effective July 1, 2011. As a result, two (2) FRN's (2230594/2228601) for United Communications Systems Inc. were added to the applicable 471 (777692).

To my knowledge, Mr. Deering (PhoneMasters) submitted the signed contracts to CallOne, they were approved, and set to assume service on July 1, 2011. Around October (2011), my superintendent called to let me know that the district was not realizing any savings in telecommunications. A bit surprised, I requested to see the bills/payments information. Upon review, I realized that AT&T was still sending bills and Mt. Vernon Township High School was continuing to pay them as well.

When I contacted CallOne to inquire why our service had not been assumed by them and why AT&T was still billing Mt. Vernon Township High School, I eventually learned that CallOne never received the signed contracts and thus were not aware of our request for them to assume our telecommunications services. Mr. Waxman, Managing Director of Sales, looked into the matter and found the agreements were never received. He apologized (see Attachment #140) and offered some suggestions regarding potential ERATE reimbursement loss.

He felt that "making a corrective spin change would restore funding via AT&T for the fiscal year (2011)." During this timeframe (early February), I received correspondence from Kris Ann Cohan, Associate Manager – Program Integrity Assurance (Phone: 973-581-5250). She was in the process of auditing my 2001-2012 471 (777692) and was requesting additional information. After a "2nd Request for E-rate app 777692," I contacted her personally and shared the above predicament. She suggested I cancel FRN's: 2230594 and 2228601 and that I send her information related to the AT&T accounts which I did. A few days later, she informed me that the two FRN's were cancelled and the AT&T FRNs would be restored.

On March 6th, 2012, I received a "Funding Commitment Decision Letter" (see Attachment #150) and I wasn't surprised that \$14,985.00 was approved and \$8,190.00 was cancelled. This is what Mrs. Cohan had explained that she was doing. I have been waiting on a 471 correction/addition for the four AT&T accounts listed below. She requested and I sent her copies of the bills needed to justify the amounts below.

Mt. Vernon Twp. HS
Telecommunications Service
471 Application #: 777692
Funding Year: 2011
BEN: 136764

<u>Service Provider Name</u>	<u>SPIN</u>	<u>Account #</u>	<u>Service Start Date</u>	<u>Average Monthly</u>	<u>Annual Total</u>	<u>Annual Discount</u>
AT&T Corp.	143001192	618 R26 0598 871 7	7/1/2011	\$3,671.75	\$44,061.00	\$30,842.70
AT&T Corp.		020 741 0950 001	7/1/2011	942.84	11,314.08	7,919.86
AT&T Corp.		618Z99004405	7/1/2011	275.35	3,304.20	2,312.94
AT&T Corp.		618 242-0805 295 0	7/1/2011	<u>\$39.64</u>	<u>\$475.68</u>	<u>\$332.98</u>
				\$4,929.58	\$59,154.96	\$41,408.47

As I completed and submitted my 486 last week, I realized there was only one account for AT&T. I opted to wait a week and get my 486 receipt letter as I was sure there would be additions/notes on what to do. Today when I sat down and began the process of submitting BEAR forms, it became painfully obvious that I would not be able to submit for reimbursement for the above without the FRN numbers.

I immediately contacted Mrs. Cohan and shared the above. She looked in her notes and began to recollect the situation and realized what must have happened. She suggested I contact Client Services immediately, which I did, and was encouraged to appeal as soon as possible.

In essence, what happened is this... the decision was made to cancel the FRN's for the new vendor, continue with AT&T, seek reimbursement from them (as we have for many years) and begin the new service (CallOne) on July 1, 2012. I felt the necessary contacts had been made, the necessary information was submitted to make the switch, and I was under the impression that all was well until today when I learned Mt. Vernon Township High School stands to lose \$40,000.00 in reimbursement.

In closing, what was a genuine attempt to locate/patronize a vendor offering comparable services at a much cheaper rate that would save the school district significant funds turned out to be a huge mess and, at present, stands to cost Mt. Vernon Township High School in excess of \$40,000, which would have a detrimental impact on our district.

I am requesting that USAC consider the following appeal...

Please allow Mt. Vernon Township High School to seek and secure \$41,408.47 in reimbursement from AT&T for the 2011-2012 school year (see attachment #200) for account specifics.

Sincerely,

Robert Knutson

CONTACT...
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MOUNT VERNON TWP H S DIST 201

Service Provider: AT&T
BEN: 136764
SPIN: 143001192
Form 471 Application Number: 777692
Funding Commitment Decision Letter for Funding Year: 2011